

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP)

WEATHERIZATION WORKS!

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) works to maximize the number of low-income households receiving cost-effective, energy efficient improvements while ensuring the health and safety of people served. The State of Rhode Island partners with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to promote energy efficiency and help low-income families become more self-sufficient.

Weatherization alleviates the disproportionate energy burden experienced by low-income households, who typically spend 17% of their total income on energy, compared with 4% for other households. After a home is weatherized, low-income families typically experience a 30% reduction on their energy bill. This can equate to an average energy savings of \$344 in the first year!

When Rhode Island's program began in 1977, temporary measures, like covering windows with plastic were emphasized. Since then, WAP has integrated advanced energy technology and expanded its reach to become the nation's core program for delivering residential energy services. Weatherization technicians use a computerized energy audit to determine the most cost-effective weatherization measures to install in each home. Diagnostic tools, like the blower door, are used to detect air leaks and pressure imbalances within the home. Combustion analyzers are used to check furnace efficiency and safety. Crews also test appliances for carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas, which can be deadly in large concentrations. Typical weatherization measures include blowing insulation, performing heating and cooling tune-ups and modifications; and repairing and sealing ducts.

Weatherization directly benefits low-income families. It also creates energy, economic, and environmental benefits for the entire community. By reducing energy bills for low-income families, money remains in the community that would typically be exported to pay for energy. This spurs local economic growth and reduces dependence on income assistance programs.

In addition, reducing residential energy demand decreases electricity generation and avoids emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and other pollutants. This improves local air quality and reduces adverse health effects, particularly asthma.

Weatherization produces an impressive range of energy, economic, and environmental benefits for low-income households and communities. Nationally, for every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$1.65 in energy-related benefits. Weatherization measures reduce national energy consumption, and curb demand for imported oil. More importantly, it gives its clients a warm, safe home while maintaining their self-sufficiency.

To apply, check the [FY 2010 Income Guidelines](#) and if you believe you could be eligible, contact the [CAP agency](#) in your area for more information on applying.

Related Links

<http://www.waptac.org>

“Energy Savers – Tips on Saving Energy and Money at Home”

<http://www.energysavers.gov/>

Visit the Weatherization Assistance Program web site at:

<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/>

Other Related Information

FY 2010 Guidelines

Statewide Service Agencies (CAP agencies) and Areas Served